

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 13, 15-18, and 20-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,750,926 to Schulman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,113,868 to Wise et al.

In the Office Action, claims 48-50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claims 13, 22, 31, 37, and 38 have been cancelled and claims 15-18, 20, 21, 23-30, 32-36, and 39-50 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 15-18, 20, 21, 23-30, 32-36, and 39-50 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 48

In the Office Action, claim 48 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 48 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 48 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 15-18, 20, 21, and 39-41

Claims 15-18, 20, 21, and 39-41 depend from claim 48 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 49

In the Office Action, claim 49 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 48 has

been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 22. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 49 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 23-30 and 42-44

Claims 23-30 and 42-44 depend from claim 49 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 50

In the Office Action, claim 50 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 50 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 31. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 50 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 32-36 and 45-47

Claims 32-36 and 45-47 depend from claim 50 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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